



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

of the complexity of such a system. Theoretically, the author's plan may be scientific; but if applied in a *smaller* factory, where the offices of the bookkeeper and cost-clerk are centralized in one person, the latter would be overwhelmed in endless detail.

It seems unwise to have the storekeeper, when giving out the materials to the shops, charge a slightly higher price for them than was paid for them when they were put into the stock-room—the difference being due to interest on the capital for the period between the payment of the invoice and the actual use of the articles in the factory, to rent of storage space and facilities, to wages of stock-keeper, etc. (p. 81). If the storekeeper exercises this trading function, by giving out this material to the shops at a slight advance over cost, it is evident that the cost-keeper is not keeping account of *costs only*, but of cost plus some profit, which thereby leads to inaccuracy and confusion. It appears to the reviewer that the better policy is to include such additions to cost with the other items under the heading of general factory expense. In this way, "cost" would mean "cost" and nothing else. By this method, there would be no difficulty like that noted at the bottom of page 86, in keeping material in the storeroom always at cost price. Each step in the use of the cost sheets is fully explained; but the method of transferring the entries from the register sheets of cost, and of centralizing all in the general commercial books (see close of chapter xiv) is not elaborated with sufficient clearness; in other words, not enough attention has been given to the exact means of bridging the gulf between the cost accounts and the general accounts. A more satisfactory result would have been attained by taking a concrete illustration to exemplify the process that is here expressed verbally.

W. T. JACKMAN.

*University of Vermont.*

*Accounting Systems.* By EDWARD P. MOXEY, JR. (New York: Alexander Hamilton Institute. 1911. Pp. xvii, 468. \$2.50.)

This tenth volume of the series entitled "Modern Business," maintains the high character of its predecessor (vol. iii) on *Accounting Theory and Practice*. Most of the work is by Dr. Moxey, and shows the breadth of view of the practicing accountant and the clear presentation of the experienced teacher. The subjects

treated include the accounts of building and loan associations, life and fire insurance companies, banks, department stores, gas companies, railroad companies, and municipal accounting. Special chapters on the accounts of banking institutions, of breweries, and of estate executors and administrators, have been added by three other university lecturers. This work will widen the horizon of those who are aspiring to the best attainments in the profession, by giving them a comprehensive grasp of the application of the science of accounts, which ordinarily they could not obtain except by years of well-directed practice. For those who have not had the opportunity of practical professional training, there is here opened up such a wide field as to render it a decidedly stimulating study. To those who already have a good fundamental knowledge the exposition of the principles of accounting is always clear; but in a few cases more elaboration is necessary in order to make clear the significance of some things, as, for example, the annual statements given on pp. 85-87 and 88-95. From actual knowledge, we are convinced that very few persons can interpret balance sheets and other financial reports; and more attention should be given to this by those who would train men to expert work in accounting. The chapter on Municipal Accounting seems altogether inadequate as a treatment of so important a subject. Further, it is not presented in accordance with the plan for uniform municipal accounting recommended by the National Municipal League; and as the latter system is, for good reasons, being more widely adopted, it is doubtful if the author's system here outlined, although easily understood by the trained accountant, will be put into effect in many places, because of the fact that municipalities want a scheme of accounts that are easily intelligible to the average man.

W. T. JACKMAN.

*University of Vermont.*

*Increasing Human Efficiency in Business.* By WALTER DILL SCOTT. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. Pp. 339. \$1.25.)

In this contribution to the psychology of business, Professor Scott follows the plan already used by him in *The Theory of Advertising*. A mental factor, such as imitation, rivalry, concentration, is treated very simply in respect to nature, causation, and